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This meanwhile, is removed from the comb, part as it is ~~from~~ deposited, by a knife falling into receiving cans below. The dressed tuft is laid so as to overlap the last tuft, & thus a continuous cliver is formed, which is carried forward by rollers, & finally delivered, a beautiful milk-white roll, into its proper receptacle.

This combed wool must have been present to the mind of the Apotheosis when he wrote, of "his head & his hairs were white like wool as white as snow," - referring it to wool in this stage of preparation. The beauty & dignity of the figure appear, & the words contain one of those delightful hints of insight into the ways & arts of man, which proclaim, upon every page of the Bible, that "his God clothed & instructed him to discretion". It is true the art of 'combing' is said to have been invented in the second century, by one Bishop Blaise, the patron saint of the worsted trade: but the combs, which made red-hot, were the instruments of his martyrdom, may have been an improvement effected by the good Bishop upon earlier methods of preparation.

The Combing is followed by the processes of Carding & Rooving, the object of which successive operations is pretty much the same, - to press several clivers into one, & to draw this one out until it is considerably thinner than either of the clivers of which it is formed. Half a dozen frames make 'a set of Drawing' & half a dozen, a set of 'Rooving'; which process differs from the Drawing in that the wool is loosely wound upon spindles instead of being delivered into a receiving can as in 3 of the 6 sets of Drawing frames; the rooving is in fact a loose kind of spinning.

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which prepares the wool for the throat. By the operation of these dozen frames, the original fibre is doubled many times, indeed it is calculated that some quarters of a million doublings take place before the wool is finally spun; every doubling not only stretches & arranges each several fibres, but tends to distribute the ends of the fibres, so that, finally, it is very unlikely that two ends should fall together, & it is impossible that three should; - an arrangement upon which the strength of the yarn obviously depends. The principle of all these machines is pretty much the same; a pair of rollers revolving slowly press the several fibres into one, which a second pair of rollers, or what not, or a set of spindles, moving at a much quicker rate, draws out or attenuates in proportion to the speed with which they revolve.

The processes of spinning & weaving, though of interest, are common to all textile manufactures & need not now be dwelt upon, while the dyeing operation is too complex a matter to be lightly touched upon. The spinning, is, in fact, a continuation of the roving process: the yarn is known as 80s, 60s, 40s, & so on, according as 60 or 100 hanks are spun out of a lb. of wool, 100s yarn is so exceedingly fine, that practically there is little demand for it; 30s is largely used, being employed in ordinary or somewhat coarse fabrics. Much of this yarn is exported: though not half as much now as in the happier days of Bradford trade; & delightful it is to an orderly mind to watch the operation of packing: yarn intended for exportation is spun upon spindle-shaped paper cases, which are removed from the frame as they stand



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packed in large crates, row upon row, and between  
ends, as neatly & compactly as the cells of a  
honey-comb; the whole bulk is finally reduced by  
means of a heavy press: Nothing, indeed, strikes  
a visitor more than the extreme neatness, order, &  
promptitude, of all the arrangements in a Mill.

In order to see the successive processes  
by means of which <sup>which only over clean fleece become pressed stuff</sup>  
~~we have planned at~~, we are taken through one  
immense room after another, down the length  
of which, spinning, drawing, or other frames are  
ranged in double file, each frame being  
attended by women or girls, while a few men  
or youths stand about - as overlookers. The  
noise is deafening. Though no doubt - the operatives  
get used to it; just as one might learn to  
sleep with open windows in the one inn <sup>Invernaid</sup> of Invernaid  
in spite of the roar of the water-fall behind the  
house; & truly, different as are the associations  
belonging to them, the roar of machinery & the  
roar of a cataract are not unlike in themselves.  
This incessant din appeared to us the most  
peculiarly unpleasant circumstance connected  
with factory labour. The women & girls  
stand to their work, it is true, but so do ship-  
women; the girls who attend to the spinning-  
frames have some vanity, as they must  
walk about ~~a good deal~~ from spindle  
to spindle, their business being to piece  
any broken threads which occur in  
the long frame containing 120 or more  
spindles: there is doubtless some degree of  
strain upon the attention of the spinners, but  
they

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look quiet & easy, as if their work did not oppress them.

The weavers are, perhaps, a more intelligent, skilled class of operatives than the spinners & they earn higher wages. The magical shuttle flies from edge to edge of the warp, between the raised & depressed threads without any aid from them; although they usually handle the part of the loom which presses each new weft thread close to the last, that, as we were told, was an excess of feminine zeal, & a necessary part of their work. The value of the cloth depends, however, a good deal upon the weaver, whose business it is to see that no roughness, knot, or other imperfection disfigures the smooth surface.

Many of the children appeared to be employed as <sup>for numeraries</sup> ~~supplementary hands~~, required only when any frame needed to be replenished with material, & in the intervals, free to play & chat <sup>with each other</sup> ~~amongst themselves~~.

~~It must be borne in mind that what is~~ pleasant & easy work for an hour, may become insupportably fatiguing before the end of a day: we can only say that there is no apparent hardship in factory labour; it was truly pleasant to see 1500 persons employed in a manner so little laborious in circumstances of so much general comfort: the rooms were in no case more than pleasantly warm, & must have been very well ventilated, so fresh was the air & so free from the heavy oily odours one associates with a factory. <sup>It should be stated, however, that the occasion of some of the worst colds of the year is passing.</sup> On the whole, the labour in <sup>waxed</sup> ~~wooden~~ mills, though monotonous, is not considered severe, & as a class



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Class. The Operatives have a fairly healthy, well 6. 10  
aspect which compares favourably with the hands  
of the Lancashire Cotton Mills. Yet there is a  
high rate of mortality in the factory districts,  
especially amongst infants & adult women,  
a circumstance which is not surprising  
when we learn that mothers leave their babies  
for a fortnight, or even of a week old, to resume  
work at the mills. The families of the  
Operatives may be roughly divided into  
two classes, those in which the mother goes  
out to work, & those in which she stays at  
home to keep house. The latter class appear  
to enjoy a good deal of rough comfort, living  
in well-built cottages with two or three bedrooms  
~~which are~~ kept for the most part wholesomely  
clean & not too tidy. The living room is  
furnished, the street door  
opening upon a handsome chest of drawers, on  
the top of which the family treasures are spread.  
The children are tenderly reared; but at  
nine or ten, they may go to the mills as  
half-timers; & the habit of early independence  
thus acquired tells mischievously upon  
family life. 'They do as it suits them,' the  
parents say, & appeal to School Board  
authorities & other outside help to aid them  
in the government of the children.

When the mother goes out to work, we may  
look for the worst side of family life; but  
in these cases the evils are simply those  
<sup>common to all</sup> neglected homes, & do not belong necessarily  
to labour in a factory. The provident, careful  
operative is well fed, well clothed well housed,  
& that in a house of his own, the purchase of

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of having put into a Building Society; hence he  
has the self respect which comes of personal possession;  
he never obsequiously & rarely borrows;

Those who know the work-people of the West-riding  
consider that the quality of 'democratic in-  
dependence' is, perhaps, their least lovely  
trait; but it is tempered by a humbleness  
which produces rough courtesy, by a strong  
instinctive love of fair play, & some capacity  
to see both sides of a question, & also, by the  
power of being grateful, of perceiving & acknowledging  
very heartily any service done them.

During the distress which has visited the town  
through the bad trade of the last few years, the  
operatives showed a fine temper; - patient endurance  
readiness to bear privation, & to do any work  
for work at any wages. While the depression  
was at its worst, the corporations made efforts  
to provide work for the men; & groups of  
respectable artisans might be seen doing  
the work of navvies for a pittance of 4s a day,  
with the sham-faced look in their famished  
faces of men employed out of their own trade.

Putting aside times of exceptional  
distress, the condition of the working classes  
generally in Bradford is not without its  
ameliorations; & foremost amongst these  
is the all but universal Saturday half-holiday.  
Indeed the Bradford folk make very  
excellent use. The town is situated in the midst  
of an exceptionally beautiful & romantic district;  
half a dozen lovely spots in the deep valley  
wild fens, wooded dales & breezy moors, are  
within



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within a quarter of an hour's railway journey.  
Others, for the half-day excursions which  
the railway companies provide for most-  
summers Saturdays, there are the three valleys  
of Kollon, Gournais, & the vale of York & its  
environs, Malham Cove & Gordale Scar,  
Lugborough Caves, & half a dozen other  
'attractions', each of which one would willingly  
traverse the length of England to see.

The railway platforms are a goodly sight  
on these weekly 'field days'; hundreds of happy  
families, babies & all, crowd into the carriages,  
take all the squeaking & pushing as excellent  
jokes, & keep up a fund of good humour &  
kindly helpfulness till they return at night,  
tired enough with unmounted walking & climbing,  
but full of the two-fold refreshment of pur-  
air & novel impressions. No need for  
folk stay away from any popular resort  
because it is the people's holiday; the place  
will be crowded, no doubt; but with a genial  
humourous, civil, quite well-conducted  
crowd, which spoils nobody's pleasure while  
tattling its own.

No are the pursuits of the Sunday less so  
the minds of the operatives as a class: the  
'Mill-girls' form an important element  
in most congregations; while the Sunday  
schools have large 'Select Classes' of young  
men & women - often full of desire for  
the best things, & most-pleasant-to-work in.  
There is no doubt that the operative class  
find

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find much intellectual pleasure & receive much  
culture in their Sunday avocations, as is proved  
by the fact that attendance at Sunday School is  
continued even during married life in most  
manufacturing towns: & the congregational singing  
of the Sunday is a real delight. People blessed  
with fine voices & strong ears, & who are seldom  
without some degree of musical training.

The Bradford Mills close at 5.30 P.M. giving the  
operatives a long evening to spend in pleasure  
taking or upon personal improvement, for  
which many opportunities are put in their way.  
Elementary instruction is well provided for, &  
besides, there are evening classes for Art, Science,  
Mathematics, Languages, all well taught, & well  
attended by working people. We have only space  
to notice one more fact illustrative of the status  
of the unskilled operatives in Bradford; the town has a  
free Public Library, established under the  
recent act: which contains some 27,000 volumes,  
& is well supplied with the public journals. 9,000  
readers in the Dunes Room & Reading Room  
is an ~~an~~ ordinary weekly average, 1,600  
of these being women, that is to say, upwards  
of 1,500 persons, on an average, read in these  
rooms in a single day, & besides this, some  
5,000 borrowers take books to their homes.  
These numbers very fairly represent the  
'reading public' amongst the labouring  
classes, as excellent subscription  
libraries are supported by the town.

Charlotte M. Mason,



2. A Morning in a Bradford Woolled Factory

Bradford lies in an elbow of the Aire valley ~~which~~ is known as Bradford Tals - sitting quite as amphitheatres of hills, rather, the heart of the town is in the valley, while the suburban parts & some of the principal streets climb the slopes of the hills.

It is entirely a manufacturing town; from any over-looking hill-side one may reckon scores of factory chimneys, & seen from such a point of view, the buildings show thinly from behind a cloudy curtain of smoke. But having said this, we have said the worst of Bradford, which, for a manufacturing centre, is fairly attractive & pleasant as a place of residence. It is seldom that the fine air of the moors is perceptibly vitiated by the heavy factory odour; most of the mills are in quarters little frequented by the general passenger, so that the main thoroughfares are simply streets of good shops; while Manningham & Horton, the two suburbs in whose handsome villas the manufacturers & merchants live, are excellently placed both as regards effect & the conditions of health. Manningham in particular, has a really fine situation, commanding the open Thornton valley & the hills on the further side. It is true these last are bare enough, but a hill is a hill, & a green slope is pleasant.